

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE Jan 15 2009

BILL NO. SB 164

The purpose of this report is to summarize weed management information from Biennial Reports received from 56 county weed districts and seven state agencies. This report results from changes that were made in the performance reporting procedures, and highlights some issues and problems regarding coordination of weed management efforts in the state.

Under Section 7-22-2151, MCA, of the County Noxious Weed Control Act, state agencies are required to develop an agreement with county weed boards for weed management on state-owned lands. These agreements must include:

- an integrated noxious weed management plan that is updated biennially;
- a noxious weed management goals statement; and
- a specific plan of operations, including a budget to implement the plan.

Another provision in this section requires a biennial performance report be submitted to the state weed coordinator in the Montana Department of Agriculture regarding the success of the plan on a form provided by the Department. A 2003 Legislative audit found the content of the previous biennial reports inadequate to provide an assessment of effectiveness of each agency's weed program. To address this, a new form was created that requires state agencies that have lands within a county to meet with a designated representative from the county. To meet statutory requirements, a representative of the agency and county must review and sign the report, then submit the report to the Department of Agriculture.

Results of the summary indicate that of a total 178-county/agency reports, 35 reports were incomplete and 12 reports were not received. The report forms were mailed to counties and agencies on May 11, 2007 with reminders to complete the reports sent in October 2007.